MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD
For the Montana National Register of Historic Places Program and State Antiquities Database

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
PO Box 201202, 1410 8th Ave
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Property Address: **1300 West Park Street** Historic Address (if applicable): **None** City/Town: **Butte**	Site Number: **24 SB 1043** (An historic district number may also apply.) County: **Silverbow**
Historic Name: **Student Union Building – State School of Mines** Original Owner(s): **State of Montana** Current Ownership ☐ Private **X** Public Current Property Name: **Student Union Building – Montana Tech** Owner(s): **State of Montana** Owner Address: **1300 West Park Street Butte, MT** Phone:	Legal Location PM: **Montana** Township: **3N** Range: **8W** **SW** ¼ **SW** ¼ **NE** ¼ of Section: **14** Lot(s): **Unavailable** Block(s): **Unavailable** Addition: **School of Mines Addition** Year of Addition: **1913** USGS Quad Name: **Butte North** Year: **1994**
Historic Use: **Student Union Building** Current Use: **Student Union Building** Construction Date: **1959-60** ☐ Estimated **X** Actual **Additions – 1971, 1983, 1998** **X** Original Location ☐ Moved Date Moved:	UTM Reference www.nris.mt.gov/topofinder2 ☐ NAD 27 **X** NAD 83 (**preferred**) Zone: **12** Easting: **379377** Northing: **5096560**
National Register of Historic Places NRHP Listing Date: Historic District: NRHP Eligible: ☐ Yes **X** No	Date of this document: **June 14, 2010** Form Prepared by: **Diana J. Painter, PhD** Address: **3518 N. C Street, Spokane, WA 99205** Daytime Phone: **(707) 364-0697**
MT SHPO USE ONLY Eligible for NRHP: □ yes **X** no Individually under C only Criteria: □ A □ B **X** C □ D Not evaluated under A, B, or D Date: 11/18/2010 Evaluator: Kate Hampton	Comments: Evaluated individually under C as part of the Post-WWII Architectural Survey. Further research and evaluation required to determine its eligibility under A, B, or D, and/or its contribution to a potential MT Tech Historic District.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION **X** See Additional Information Page

Architectural Style: Modern If Other, specify:
Property Type: Education Specific Property Type: Student Union Building

Architect: Eldred F. Moyle Architectural Firm/City/State: Eldred F. Moyle, Architect, Butte, MT
Builder/Contractor: Unknown Company/City/State:
Source of Information: Newspaper

The Student Union Building at Montana Tech is a two-story building with an irregular footprint and flat, shallow-pitched gable, and mansard roofs. The building was completed in 1958, and has had one major addition and two renovations since that time. The original building was designed by architect Eldred F. Moyle of Butte. The addition was designed by Charles A. Kestle of Butte.

Location and setting. The Student Union Building is located on the west side of the Montana Tech campus, south of W. Park Street and to the right or west as one enters the campus from W. Park Street. It is one of five buildings that define the main quad on the campus. The quad is a formal, rectilinear space, whereas the first part of the campus developed as an outer 'ring' looking out over the Butte. Today these two models are combined in the original main campus.

The site for the campus and the building slopes down steeply from the quad, which is the primary entry grade for the building. Correspondingly, the building is one-story as viewed from the quad, and two stories as viewed from the west. The slope of the sidewalk along the south side of the building accommodates an at-grade entry to the lower level at about the center of this façade.

The campus itself is directly west of downtown Butte and linked to it by W. Park Street, the main street that accesses and travels through the campus. The entry to this original portion of the campus is on the north side of W. Park Street. The quad is perpendicular to W. Park Street and the Student Union Building faces east onto the quad. The Petroleum Building is to the south. To the west is a parking and loading area between the building and a playing field to the west.

Materials. The Student Union Building at Montana Tech is composed of a variety of materials, reflecting its various phases of construction. According to the State of Montana's Building Detail Report, the building is constructed of brick on concrete masonry construction. There are at least two different types of brick on the structure, laid in various patterns. The roof is a combination of built-up roofing and standing seam metal roofing. It has a concrete foundation. Glazing is a combination of glass and plexi- or colored glass. Window and door frames are aluminum and anodized aluminum. Additional materials include panels finished in aggregate stone, pressed metal, and concrete.

Massing and design. The building has a monumental appearance as viewed from W. Park Street, where it has two entries from the street at each side of a central projecting bay. The main entry to the original building, which had an almost residential appearance and scale, was from the quad within the Montana Tech campus. This entry is still in place. A second major entry on this side of the building is located at the southeast corner, also accessed from the main campus.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

North façade. There are three primary sections on the north façade, which is a side façade but faces onto the main public street. To the west is a large, two-story volume with a concrete stem wall; brick cladding in a running bond pattern with no openings; deep boxed eave of pressed metal with a tall fascia embossed with a geometric pattern; and a shallow-sloped, gable roof with slightly sloped face on the north side, finished in standing seam metal cladding.

Near the center of this façade is a projecting bay that accommodates entries on the west and east sides. There are four deep pilasters on this façade that pierce the eaves and extend above the roofline, dividing this projection into three window bays. At the base of these piers is a concrete stemwall. The first and second floors here are separated by wide spandrel panels with an aggregate finish. The eaves/cornice of this projection is of the same design as those to the west.

The entry doors on this projection are recessed behind the extended wall of the front façade. They are two stories in height. At the first level is a double entry door with full-height glass, with two-light side lights and a narrow transom above. At the second level is a tall three-part window with a large central light flanked by narrow lights. All frames are anodized aluminum. To the left of the east wall perpendicular to the entry are two narrow, single lights placed near the ground, one with transparent glass and one with orange glass or plexi-glass. At the west entry the walkway to the door is below grade and separated from the main sidewalk area a short retaining wall surmounted with a metal rail with a geometric pattern. At this entry an aggregate panel separates the first and second-level glazed areas. The extension of the brick wall on the north or left side of this entry displays two different types of bricks and brick patterns – smooth stacked brick and textured brick in running bond pattern.

The section of the façade between this entry bay and the large volume to the west is solid brick with the exception of two narrow windows that raise the full-height of the façade, but for an aggregate panel that separates the first and second levels. This bay also features the concrete stem wall and projecting metal cornice seen elsewhere on the building.

The west side of this façade has two window bays between solid brick-clad walls. The upper windows consist of paired, four-over-one-light windows separated by wide mullions. The two paired windows to the east are separated from the three paired windows to the west by a wide brick pilaster. The windows have anodized aluminum frames with false muntins in the upper portion. The upper windows are separated from the lower windows by aggregate spandrel panels. The lower windows are one-over-one-light windows with aluminum frames that are otherwise arranged in the same configuration as the upper windows. A deep projecting eave/cornice of the same design as that seen throughout the building covers this portion of the building as well. Above is a mansard-style, standing seam metal roof that 'floats' above the flat roof of the building in this location.

East façade. The east façade is the original entry façade for the building. Two entries are located off the quad here. The northerly entry is the original entry for the building. Today it consists of a glazed entry vestibule that projects from the main face of the building here, but is set back from the northerly wing. It has a [new] double, one-over-one-light,

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Aluminum-frame door. To each side are large, horizontally-oriented, one-over-one-light windows. Above the entire ensemble are three transom windows. This treatment is repeated on the south side of the entry vestibule. On the wall to the right, perpendicular to the entry, are three banked windows consisting of paired, four-over-one-light windows. The entry is covered with an overhang of the same design as the eaves/cornices seen elsewhere on the building. A slightly sloped concrete ramp with metal rails accessed the main entry door. The area to the left is partially enclosed with a brick-clad planter, original to the building.

The slightly projecting wing to the right or north of this entry has a bank of six-light windows, with small operable lights topped by fixed lights, all within heavy anodized aluminum frames. The spandrel panel below is finished in aggregate. Above the windows is the projecting integral eave/cornice seen elsewhere on the building. Above this is the standing seam metal mansard seen on the north façade. Separating this bay of windows from the entry is a tall, brick-clad stack with a large opening at the top, covered by a concrete roof. Visible within this tower is another smaller brick pier topped by two concrete 'wing' shapes. The purpose of this feature is unknown. The tower is clad in brick in both stacked and running bond patterns. The central portion was the original chimney for the building, which had the broad face popular in mid-century chimneys.

To the left of the main entry are single and paired windows of two lights each, an upper fixed light and lower operable light. These are topped by transoms infilled with solid panels. Under the eaves in this location are panels finished in aggregate. On the right side of this bay are five ganged windows with an upper fixed light and lower operable light, with an aggregate panel below.

A secondary entry is located on the south-facing façade of the building, accessed via a walkway that projects at an angle from the main quad. Two concrete steps lead from the quad to the building entry in this location. The entry is covered by the same pressed metal roof as the main entry. The roof here is supported by brick-clad piers that are mounted on concrete stemwalls. The entry itself consists of a double door of full-height glass in an anodized aluminum frame. This is set within a window wall, also framed in anodized aluminum. To each side of the entry are concrete planters. Walls to each side of the entry are clad in the brick that is characteristic of the newer brick on the building, layered over the older brick of the original building.
To the immediate south of the building is the Petroleum Building. A concrete retaining wall separates the upper campus from the lower campus in this location.

South façade. The south building façade faces onto the lower campus. It exhibits the two major building phases present on the building. On the east side the lower level is concrete, with nearly square windows set high on this façade. Overhanging this face is a standing seam metal mansard roof, which extends over the second floor, forming an overhang over the first level. Five tall, narrow, fixed windows with orange glass or plexi-glass are regularly spaced on this façade. Visible on the west end of the second floor is brick cladding.

The west side of the building in this location has a recessed loading dock on the right side. The lower floor here is clad in brick with no openings, with a concrete stem wall below. The lower level is separated from the upper level by a band of concrete. At the second level, about two-thirds of the building façade is glazed. The ganged windows are composed of one-over-one-lights in anodized aluminum frames. A solid aggregate panel finishes the area above the loading bay. A non-projecting eave/cornice of the same design as seen elsewhere on the building covers the window wall. The roof form here echoes the roof form seen on the north façade of this addition.

West Façade: The west façade of the building, which consists of the west façade of the west addition, exhibits the same monumentality as the north façade. The central portion of this façade has four bays. Each bay is separated by a projecting brick-clad pilaster. Upper and lower floor levels are separated by a spandrel panel finished in aggregate. A solid, brick-clad wall finishes this façade on the north side. The south side is

Solid brick on the first level, with four-and-one-half bays above, the windows are again separated by projecting brick pilasters. An entry, accessed via three concrete steps with a tubular metal rail, is located about the center of this façade. It has a door of full-height glass with a large window to the left.

Windows on this façade typically consists of a large fixed light over a smaller light, paired with a narrow fixed light over a small, awning-style sash; or a two-light window. All windows are framed in anodized aluminum. The entire façade is covered by a slightly projecting cornice of pressed metal. The mansard roof is finished with standing seam metal cladding.

The original building: The building as planned had a largely L-shaped footprint and an almost residential appearance. The end wall facing onto the quad had a shallow-sloped gable roof with glazing across the entire face, anchored by a large brick chimney wall on the left side, as shown in the rendering for the proposed building. The roof of the wing to the south was flat. A photograph from about 1960; shows that the panels above the windows on the gable face were enclosed in a solid material. The entry vestibule was of the same design as it is today, only accessed via concrete steps instead of a ramp. The chimney was clad in square-shaped masonry units. The overhang covering the entry was not the tall overhang seen there today. It was supported by narrow posts mounted on the brick planter still in place today. The overall appearance was one of lightness and transparency, consistent with the era within which the building was designed. Windows to the left of the entry were similar to those seen on the building today.

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The design of the building was described as follows in a November 1958 article on the proposed building.

> *The exterior will be of red tapestry Norman brick, with large windows fronting the place on either side of the foyer. On the first or main floor will be a large combination room usable for dancing, lectures or large meetings. A fireplace occupies a prominent niche along one wall. At the north end of the room, which will measure 40 by 80 feet, will be a snack bar and coffee shop, with a canteen in conjunction . . . Also on the first floor will be three other meetings rooms, an office, a check room, a small sun deck and rest rooms.*
>
> *In the basement will be a reading room, the campus book store, a room for working on campus publications, a photography dark room, a recreation or game room, a place for storage of electrical equipment, a storage room, and a small apartment in which the custodian or manager will live. Stairways connect the two floors (School of Mines Student Union Building . . . 1958:1).*

In contrast to the relatively small scale, openness and transparency of the 1960-era building, the 1971 addition has a ponderous appearance, with a tall, stamped sheet metal eave/cornice throughout, presumably intended to tie together various portions of the building. It has mansard roofs that extend over building facades, float above roofs, and sit within a parapet on the roof of the western addition. Large blank facades and deep pilasters that separate narrow window walls are features of the new addition. In other words, the design concept for the addition and renovation took a pronounced departure from the original building, causing the building to, at this point, have very little consistency among its various parts and expressions.

The Student Union was renovated again in 1983 and in 1998. Today the mix of materials includes aluminum and anodized aluminum-frame windows of various styles; aggregate panels; two types of brick; orange plexi-glass or glass windows; a green standing seam metal roof; a stamped metal eave/cornice; and concrete walls.

HISTORY OF PROPERTY **X** See Additional Information Page

Montana Tech University. The Montana State School of the Mines was founded in 1893. Funding to establish a state school of the mines had been appropriated by President Grover Cleveland when Montana was admitted to the Union in 1889. It finally opened in 1900, with twenty-one students. The purpose of the school was to train students in mining engineering. To that end, it offered two degrees, leading to the professions of mining engineer and electrical engineer. During World War II the school became a naval college, with about 90 percent of its facilities devoted to officer training for the U.S. Navy and Marines for a period of two years.

After the war the curriculum was broadened; humanities and social sciences courses were added to what had been up until then a technically-based curriculum. In 1957 the school had 303 students. The name of the school was changed from Montana School of Mines to Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology on January 25, 1965. Enrollment had increased to 998 students by 1971, with the addition of new degree programs. The Montana University System was restructured in 1994 and the name of the university was changed again to its present name of Montana Tech of The University of Montana. Today it houses three colleges, one school, and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and has an enrollment of 2100 students *("About Montana Tech – History")*.

History of the building. The building as first conceived in 1958 and constructed in 1960 had a light, airy, almost residential feel. It was relatively small, with a largely L-shaped footprint. The building was anticipated to cost about $250,000 including the building and furnishings, and was to be paid for through a Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency loan, which would be re-paid through student fees *(School of Mines Student Union Building . . . 1958:1)*.

INFORMATION SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY ☐ See Additional Information Page

"About Montana Tech – History," *Montana Tech/The University of Montana,* http://www.mtech.edu/about/history.html, accessed March 2010.

"Board Approves School Buildings," *The Billings Gazette,* January 20, 1959, p. 7.

Bowker, R. R., *American Architects Directory* (First edition). Bowker LLC/American Institute of Architects, 1956 (Second edition, 1962; Third edition, 1970).

Butte-Anaconda Historic District National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, multiple authors, March 2006.

"Dedication Will Highlight 'M' Day Activities at Mines School in Butte Today," *The Montana Standard,* May 4, 1960, p. 1.

"Guide to the Montana School of Mines Records 1901-1925," Northwest Digital Archives, http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/findaid/ark:/80444/xv59170, accessed March 2010.

"Hollenbeck, Lynn, "Montana Tech – growing pains after 70 years," *The Montana Standard,* March 18, 1971, p. 10.

HISTORY OF PROPERTY

It was designed by Butte architect Eldred Moyle and dedicated on May 4, 1960.

In 1969 the students voted to expand the building, anticipating enrollment growth when mathematics, history and English degree programs were added to the school curriculum *(Montana Tech – growing pains . . . 1971:10)*. The new construction, which included an addition on the west side and alteration of other facades, was completed in late 1971. The architect for the addition was Butte designer Charles A. Kestle. The addition accommodated dining facilities for 225, a new game roof, student office space, and a bookstore.

The student union was renovated again in 1983 and in 1998, adding conference rooms, study areas, a computer lab, a duplicating center, a health center, a radio station, a other activities *("Student Union Building," http://www.mtech.edu/about/map.sub.htm)*.

Architect Eldred F. Moyle. The original designer for the Student Union Building was Butte architect Eldred F. Moyle. Eldred Finch Moyle was born in Butte, Montana on July 31, 1902. There is no record of his training, although he became a member of the Montana chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1946. In 1967 he became a partner in Moyle-Aanes & Associates of Butte. Vincent G. Aanes had attended Portland University and had a BS in Architectural Engineering from Montana State College. Among the projects he completed after joining with Aanes are Emerson and Hillcrest Elementary Schools in Butte; the Montana State Highway complex in Butte; and the West Montana College Men's Dormitory and physical education building in Dillon. Moyle died in 1986.

Architect Charles A. Kestle. Architect Charles A. Kestle designed the major addition to the Student Union Building about 1970. Charles Andrew Kestle was born on September 13, 1923 in Butte, Montana. He attended the Montana School of the Mines and DePaul University in Chicago, and Montana State College. He was employed by Eldred F. Moyle Architects in the mid-1950s. He established his own firm in Butte in 1958. Among the works for which he is known are a Men's Residence Hall at West Montana College of Education in Dillon, Safeway Stores throughout Montana, the Whittier School in Butte; the Elks Club Addition in Anaconda; and the Voc-Tech Unit at Butte High School.

INFORMATION SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Montana Architectural Drawings - Montana State University Digital Initiatives
http://arc.lib.montana.edu/architect/index.php accessed March 2010.

"Montana School of Mines Marks Its 60th Anniversary," *The Montana Standard,* September 18, 1960, p. 1.

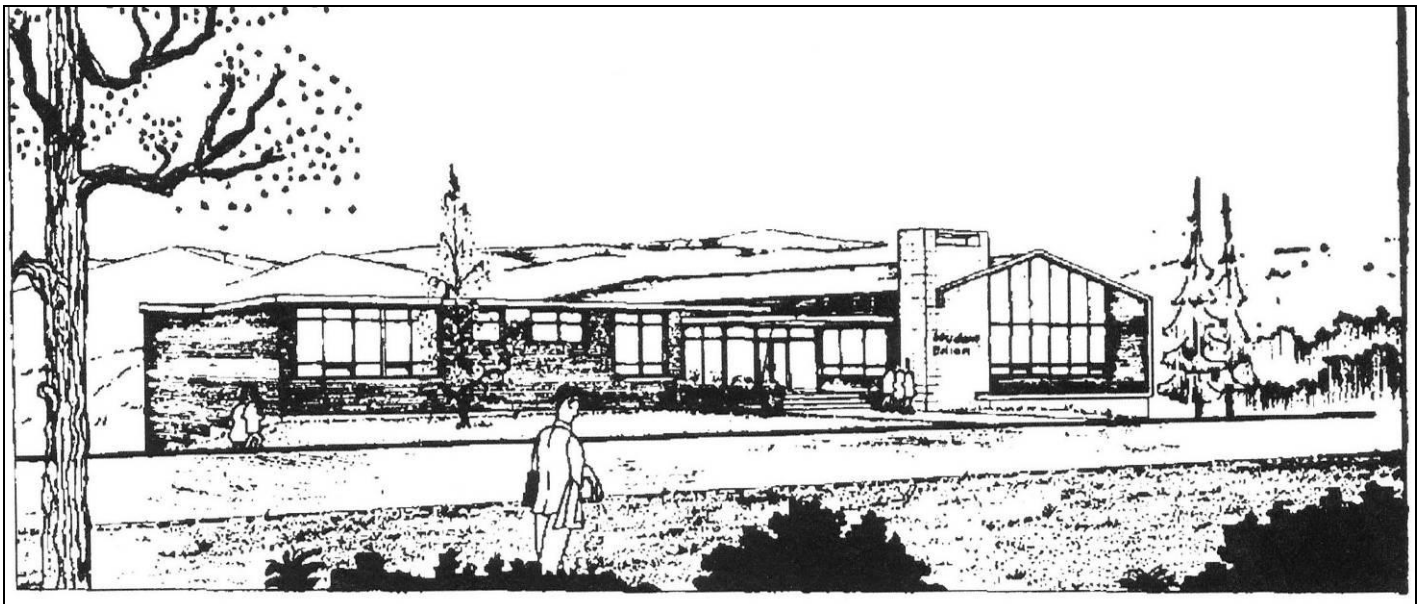
"Montana Tech – Butte, Student Union Building," *State of Montana Building Detail Report,* November 30, 2007.

"New Building Approved," *The Billings Gazette,* May 13, 1958, p. 9.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Butte, MT, 1916; 1916 updated to 1951; 1916 republished in 1957.

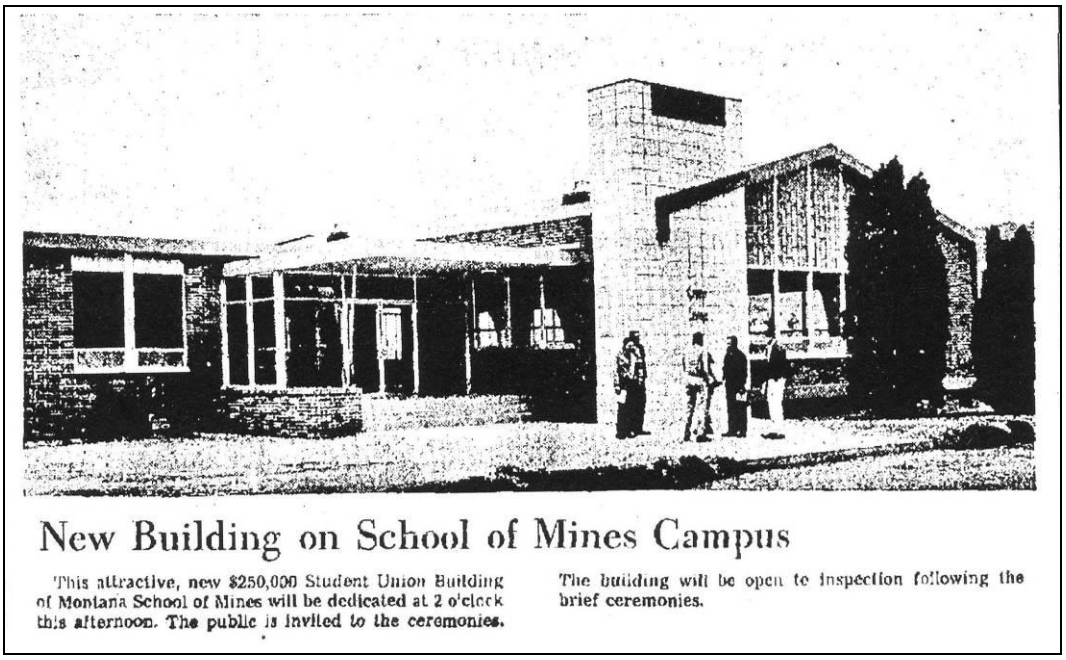
"School of Mines Student Union Building Will be $250,000 Addition to Campus," *The Montana Standard,* November 23, 1958, p. 1.

"Student Union Building (SUB)," *Montana Tech: The University of Montana,* http://www.mtech.edu/about/map/sub.htm, accessed June 2010.



STUDENT UNION TO FILL SOCIAL NEED—Montana School of Mines students, long hampered by a lack of campus social opportunities, will enjoy a wonderful gathering place when their Student Union, shown in this architect's drawing, is completed. The structure, which will have a full basement, will cost approximately $250,000. The money in the form of a federal loan will be repaid, not through taxes, but by means of a $5-per-semester fee for each student. The building fund assessment was given hearty approval in a student vote last spring.

Rendering of proposed building published in November 1958

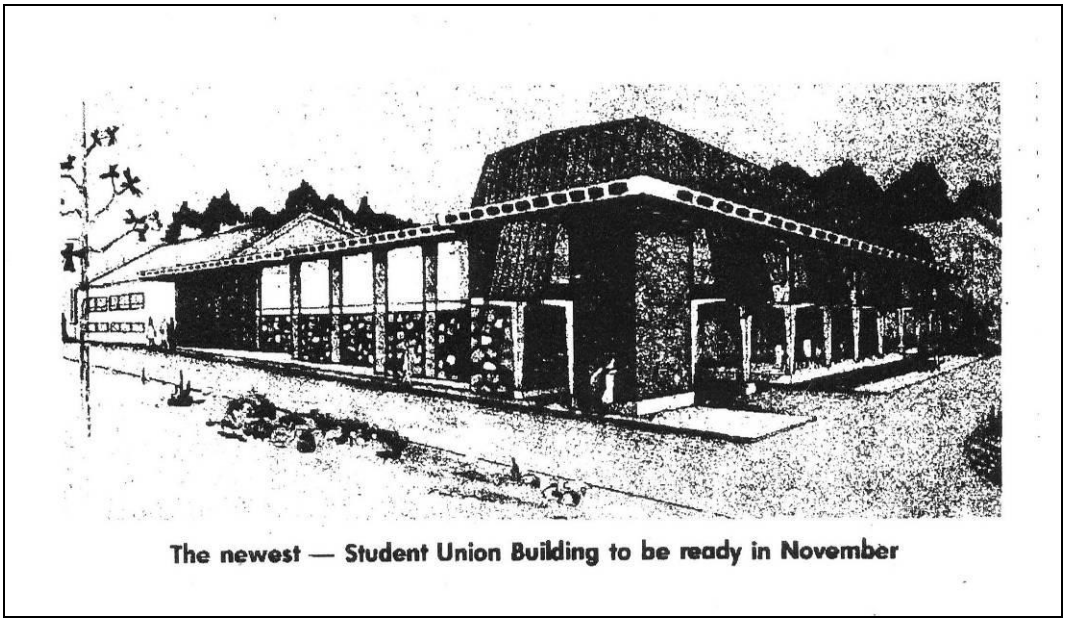


New Building on School of Mines Campus

This attractive, new $250,000 Student Union Building of Montana School of Mines will be dedicated at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The public is invited to the ceremonies.

The building will be open to inspection following the brief ceremonies.

Photograph of building as constructed in 1959-60



The newest — Student Union Building to be ready in November

Rendering of proposed 1971 addition and renovation

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NRHP Listing Date:
NRHP Eligibility: ☐ Yes **X** No **X** Individually ☐ Contributing to Historic District ☐ Noncontributing to Historic District
Evaluated individually under Criterion C only. Further research required to determine its potential under A, B, or D and/or as a contributor to a potential historic district.
NRHP Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B **X** C ☐ D
Area of Significance: Period of Significance:

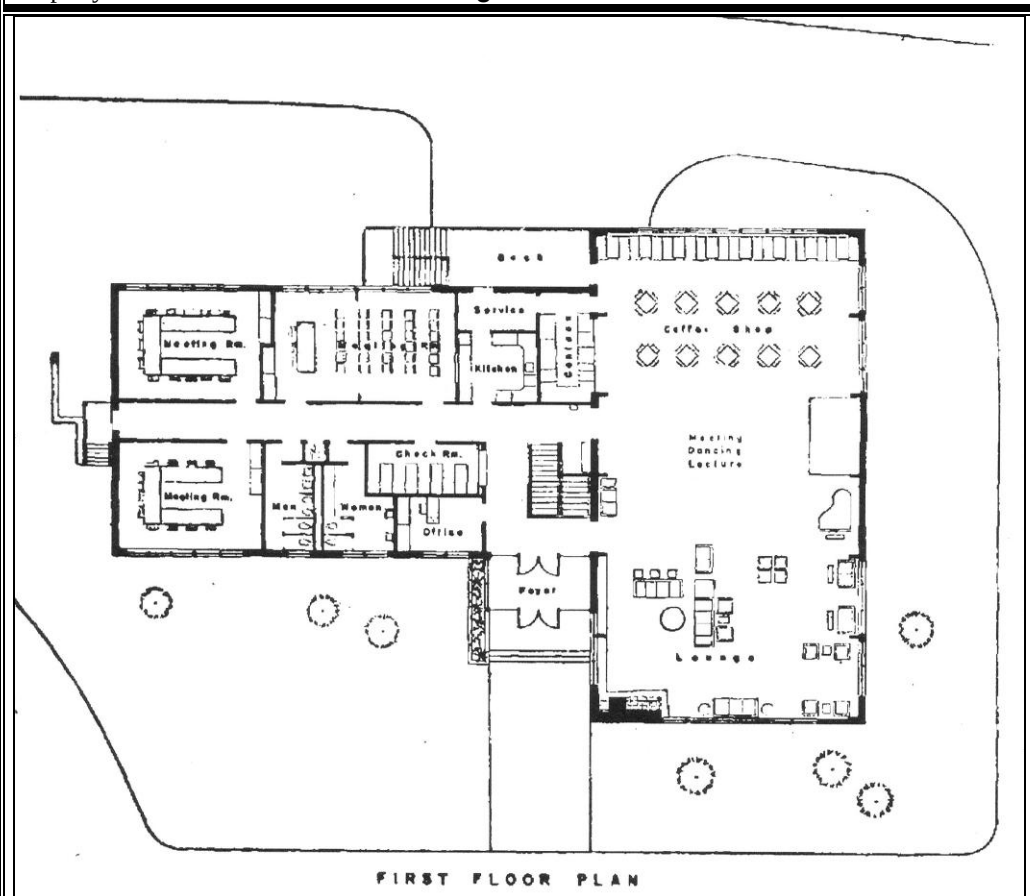
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ☐ See Additional Information Page

As originally conceived and constructed, the Student Union Building at Montana Tech was designed to convey a comfortable, residential-type atmosphere, with a large seating area around a fireplace and other 'home-like' features (a Student Union Building that still retains this original atmosphere is the SUB at Montana State University in Billings). Like other universities in Montana at the time, the students provided the fees for construction, emphasizing the fact that the building was for their use. The subsequent additions may have served the student body, but they undermine the architectural integrity of the building.

In particular, the 1971 changes to the building contributed an aesthetic that was a dramatic departure from the earlier design, with a number of new materials as well. Additionally, changes to the building after the initial construction date have resulted in some odd, awkward juxtaposition of materials and design features where the new and old come together. In a marked contrast to the original design, the building today has an almost monumental appearance. The Student Union Building at Montana Tech is determined to be not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places due to lack of integrity.

INTEGRITY ☐ See Additional Information Page

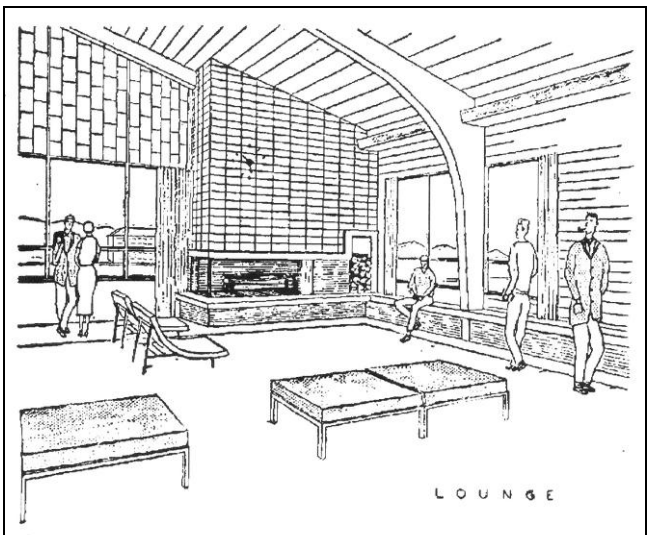
The Student Union Building at Montana State University retains integrity of location and setting. It does not retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling or association. It therefore does not retain sufficient integrity to be listed individually under Criterion C in the National Register of Historic Places.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

NEW BUILDING TO HAVE MANY USES — The projected Student Union Building on the Montana School of Mines, on which construction is expected to start next spring, is designed as a multipurpose unit. This sketch of the first or main floor shows the entry (lower center), the spacious room to the right for dances, meetings, lectures, lounging and snacks, the canteen and kitchen arrangement and, to the left, the office and three meeting rooms for smaller groups. The lounge's fireplace is indicated here by the heavy, black figure in the room's lower left corner.

Floor plan of 1960 building



LOUNGE

LOUNGE TO BE BRIGHT, CHEERY—The new Student Union on the School of Mines campus will have an attractive lounge area where students may meet casually to swap study ideas or while away moments between classes. Officers and committees of the Associated Students of the Montana School of Mines will operate the Student Union. The new building with its many modern features can be expected to brighten campus life immeasurably and offer welcome relief from the normal tedium of class and laboratory grinding.

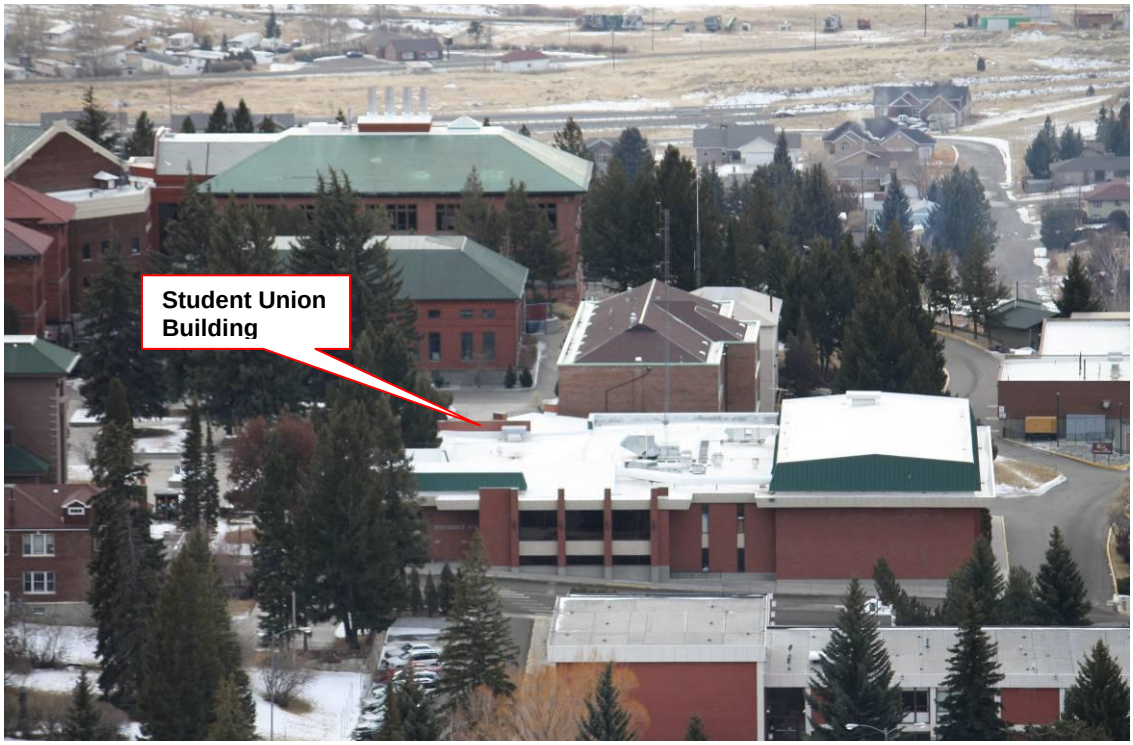
Interior rendering of 1960 building

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: **Student Union Building – Montana Tech** Site Number: **24 SB 1043**

Description: **North (side) façade, viewed from northeast**



Description: **Building overview, viewed from north**

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD
PHOTOGRAPHS
Property Name: **Student Union Building – Montana Tech** Site Number: **24 SB 1043**

Description: **East (front) façade, north side**

Description: **East (front) façade, main entry**

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD
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Property Name: **Student Union Building – Montana Tech** Site Number: **24 SB 1043**

Description: **West and south facades, viewed from southeast**

Description: **Secondary entry, southeast side of building**

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

SITE MAP

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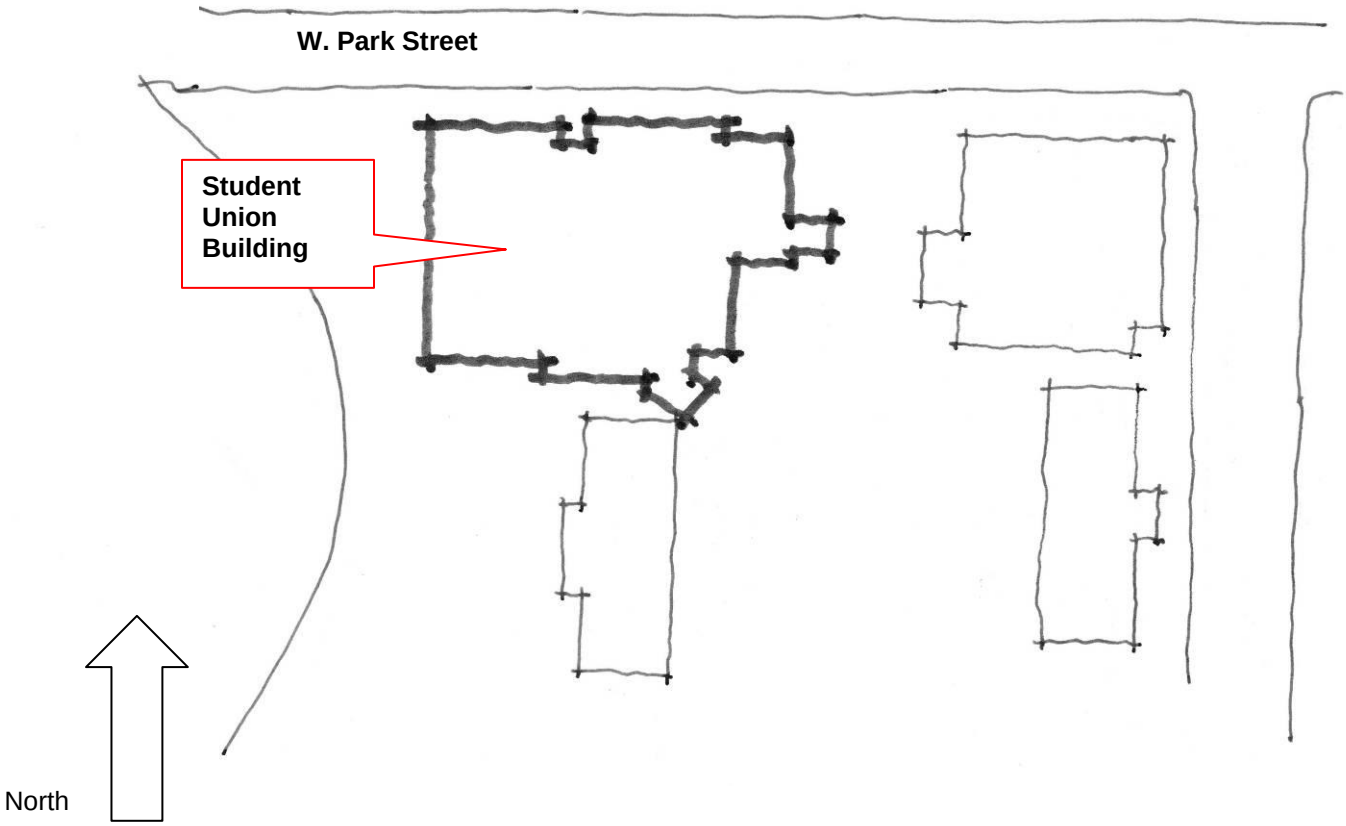

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Property Name: **Student Union Building – Montana Tech** Site Number: **24 SB 1043**